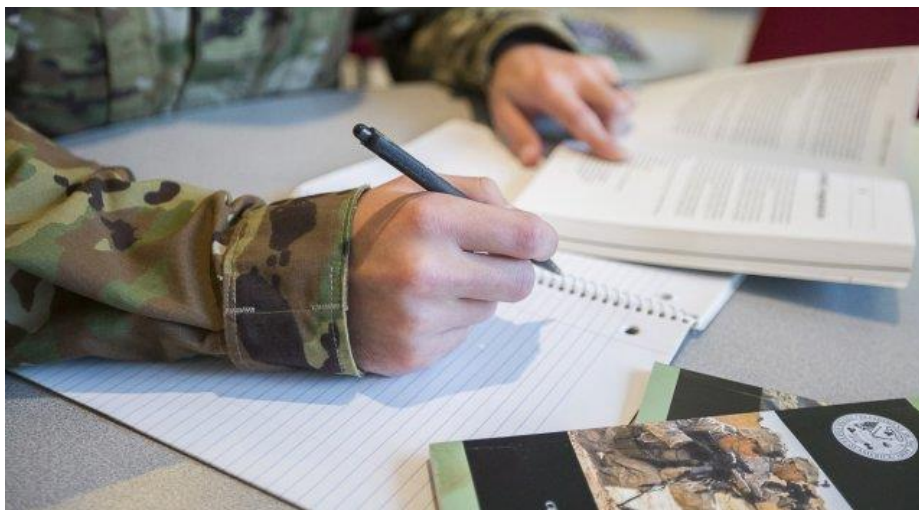


Every Member Counts

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD



August Family Focus

Mission: Service Member & Family Support enhances and empowers the lives of our customers with consistently exceptional service & support.

Service Member and Family Support

Phone: 1-800-658-3930

THE FOCUS IS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILIES, VETERANS, RETIREES & SURVIVORS

IN THIS ISSUE

Make Sure to Apply for Tuition Assistance - Today!

SDNG State Tuition Assistance:

For Air and Army National Guard service members:

Effective 1 JUL 2015, all SDNG State Tuition Assistance applications will go through the new SDNG STA website located at

<https://apps.sd.gov/mvgotuitionassistance/default>

The SDNG Form 56 is NO LONGER valid. The SDNG STA program provides a tuition discount rate of up to 50% at SDSU, USD, DSU, BHSU, SDSM&T and NSU. The SDNG STA program provides a tuition discount rate of up to 83.5% at WDTI, MTI, SETI and LATI.

Applications are being accepted now for the fall 2017 school term **until 27 August 2017**.

Contact SPC Kayleigh Cihak at 605.737.6087 for more details or assistance.

Federal Tuition Assistance:

For Army National Guard Soldiers through GoArmyEd:

Applications are being accepted now for the fall 2017 school term. Eligible SDARNG Soldiers can apply for up to 16 semester hours of coverage per fiscal year (OCT-SEP) at eligible schools. This program covers tuition up to \$250.00 per credit and **applications must be submitted and approved up to seven days prior to the term start date** to better guarantee funding. Applications received within six days of the term start date are subject to disapproval and funding is not guaranteed. Apply early at: www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx Contact Ms. Linda Abbott at 605.737.6675 for more details or assistance.



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Disclaimer: The announcements that appear on this page(s) or attached are intended to inform Soldiers, Airmen, veterans, and their families of special offers provided to Service Members, veterans and their families and are not intended to constitute an endorsement by the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard, the United States Army, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense. It is strictly intended to be used for informational purposes only.

Notes From the Director



Greetings everyone... this is LTC Brendan Murphy, the new director for Service Member & Family Support (SMFS) and I wanted to reach out to you and your families to introduce myself and also wish that you are having a wonderful summer! I am very excited about rejoining the SMFS team. I had previously served as the Deputy Director back in 2012-2013 and it is a tremendous honor to be back with the amazing members of SMFS.

My top priority as director is taking excellent care of our Soldiers, Airmen and their Families! I am proud to say that SMFS will continue to connect people to the right service and/or benefit or program at the right time. It's what we do... I also wanted to give you my assurance that we will continue to do everything we can to positively impact you, your Families and our Veterans throughout this great state.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been given this opportunity to be a part of SMFS and my commitment to you is to always strive to provide first-rate products and services that will inevitably help you with your ever-changing needs.

If you or any member of your **family needs assistance** or has any questions on how we can better serve, please reach out to my team any time at: **1-800-658-3930**. We stand ready to serve you.

Additionally, I want to THANK all of our many amazing volunteers that dedicate so much of their time and talents to help SMFS provide you timely service and support. We cannot do our mission, nor have such great success without them.

Lastly, I want to THANK YOU for all you do and for your tremendous dedication and service to this great organization and to our country. We strive very hard to enhance the quality of life for you as Service Members, for your Families and for our Veterans and will continue that tradition of service. Best Wishes!!



Sincerely,
LTC Brendan Murphy
Director, SMFS

Dollar Tree Partners with Operation Homefront to Offer School Supplies

"The back-to-school period is financially challenging for many military families," said Brig. Gen. (ret) John I. Pray Jr., president and CEO of Operation Homefront. "Partnering with Dollar Tree for a ninth year on our Back-to-School Brigade® program allows us to make sure military families are properly prepared for the upcoming school year."

Through our longstanding work together, Dollar Tree and their customers have eased the financial burden that many military families face and have helped this special and deserving group of our fellow citizens thrive — not simply struggle to get by — in the communities they've worked so hard to protect."

Service members and their families can pick up supplies at the following armories: Watertown, Mitchell, Brookings, Rapid City (Duke Corning & AASF), and Sturgis (881st TC & 196th RTI) Spearfish.



Questions can be directed to:

Rickkie Martinmaas
Family Assistance Center
Specialist South Dakota
Contractor

Office: 605.737.6970

Cell: 605.415.0471

Rickkie.m.martinmaas.ctr@mail.mil



Please share photos of your unit or your employer participating to redshirtfriday.southdakota@gmail.com so we can share them on our social media sites.

August 25, 2017

**Honoring the
deployed
members of the
SD Air National Guard
and their families.**

**Please wear a red shirt
to show your support!**

Youth Council Seeking Applicants

As you may be aware, the SDNG Child & Youth Program is successful in part because of our volunteers. One of our major volunteer programs is the Youth Council. The Youth Council is a group of high school students ages 14-17 that participate in all of our major events as leaders, facilitators and peer mentors. We are currently accepting applications for the 2018 SDNG Youth Council team from both Army and Air Guard youth. Of the 15 statewide positions on the Youth Council, there are currently 5 slots available. Please consider joining this amazing group of young people and becoming part of the VOICE for the SDNG Youth Program. I have attached an information flyer and PowerPoint to this email for a closer look at our teams purpose and goals.

Youth Council members gather on a quarterly basis throughout the year to discuss current issues and concerns of Military Teens. This group also helps to put together activities and programs for all Military Youth within the state. Additionally, as a Youth Council member you will be tasked as a Junior Counselor at our Youth Camps, a peer mentor and facilitator at our State Youth Symposium, and possibly as a representative in our Region 8 Youth Leadership Summit to be held in a different state within our Region every year.



YOUTH COUNCIL
SD National Guard Child & Youth Program

And that's not even the best part! As a member of the Youth Council, you will be given all of the tools and then some to succeed in your mission through certifications and trainings held throughout the year. This is a great college or career resume builder, as well as a fun and easy way to gain volunteer hours toward graduation!

If you are a person who enjoys being part of a team, volunteering their time to help others, and is willing to learn new skills - we are looking for you! Please see the attached Youth Council application and seriously consider joining our team.

Applications are due back to Child & Youth Program Coordinator, Candice Tvinnereim by Friday, 1 September 2017 for consideration.

Once the applications are received the current Youth Council members will meet, review the applications and vote in the new members.

Contact Candice Tvinnereim for the application or more information at:

605-882-9376
605-787-3312 or
candice.l.tvinnereim.ctr@mail.mil

DADDY DOLLS^{INC}

Thank You for Your Service!

As our Thank You please take **15% OFF** your DaddyDolls.com order by using the code **MILITARY15** on the cart page.
Excludes Family Packs, items on sale and Gift Certificates. Expires 12/31/2017



For Any Questions Please Call Us at
(231) 268.3100 or Email info@daddydolls.com

Monthly Focus

Troops to Teachers



It's never too early to think about your life after separation and start exploring your options. Your next life-changing mission could be to become a teacher. Many service members transitioning to a civilian career find their skills naturally transfer to a career in teaching.

Troops to Teachers can help you identify your best path to teaching by providing counseling, guidance and help with meeting education requirements. You're eligible for the program if you're a current or former member of the

U.S. Armed Forces.

Troops to Teachers career resources include guidance on teacher certification and education requirements and leads on employment opportunities.

The program's financial help can pay for your education and licensure requirements.

There are also bonuses to encourage you to teach in certain types of schools or in a specific part of the country, and also for teaching subjects that are in demand, such as science, math or foreign languages. Time restrictions for registration and other requirements are involved, so contact a Troops to Teachers state or regional coordinator for more information.

For more information contact the

SDNG education office at 605-737-6713 or visit the [Troops to Teachers website](#).

Upcoming Strong Bonds Events



Strong Bonds is conducted in an offsite retreat format in order to maximize the training effect. The retreat or "get away" provides a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments, and military lifestyle stressors

20-21 January 2018 – Rapid City
Strong Bonds for Families

24-25 March 2018 – Sioux Falls
Strong Bonds for Couples

For additional Information contact Chaplain (COL) Wilson at 605-737-6009 or lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil



On Friday and Saturday, 10-11 November, Sanford Health and Warriors Never Give Up are hosting 12 Heroes for a "Veterans Day" of pheasant hunting and fellowship at North Stream Outfitters, www.NorthStreamOutfitters.com approximately eight miles west of Pierre. Our Veteran-guests will be treated to an amazing hunting experience on more than 1,600 acres of Missouri River breaks and food plots; with first-class guides, dogs and hospitality. A tentative agenda is as follows:

- 10 November
- 1700 Arrive in Pierre and check-in at the Ramkota Best Western
- 1800 Transportation to dinner at the Silver Spur Restaurant in Ft. Pierre
- 2000 Fellowship
- 11 November
- 0730 Breakfast at the Ramkota/checkout
- 0830 Arrive at North Stream Outfitters (8 miles west of Pierre on Highway 34/14)
- 0930 Introductions, Safety Briefing, Hunt overview
- 1000 Hunt Begins – Lunch provided
- 1500 Hunt Concludes – Photos/testimonials
- 1600 Travel Home

Due to the generosity of our sponsor, Sanford Health, there is no charge for this event.

A few logistical items of note:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages are provided during your stay.
- Travel expenses before and after the event are up to the individual participant.
- You are responsible to have a valid pheasant hunting license.
- For those traveling from out of town, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre. Please contact, Paul Weckman or Brett Bastian, if you'd like us to reserve a room.
- Pheasant hunting equipment: bring a blaze orange cap and stocking cap; blaze orange hunting vest or coat; appropriate hunting clothing for all weather conditions; including but not limited to hunting boots, thermal socks, thermal underwear, multiple clothing layers, gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, etc. Healing heroes through outdoor adventures are the words which embody our mission. Warriors Never Give Up, a South Dakota-based foundation, began by embracing our passion for the outdoors to serve our nation's Heroes - but God called us to step out of our comfort zone to do so much more.

On November 12 2016, Sanford Health and Warriors Never Give Up hosted a group of Heroes for a day of pheasant hunting and fellowship at North Stream Outfitters, approximately eight miles west of Pierre. Here is an account given by Bob Dejong of his and Andy Heymens experience:

The day spent with Warriors Never Give Up was nothing short of stellar! Andy Heymens was in my office when I was reading November edition of The Family Focus and I asked Andy if he hunted. With excitement, we looked through the

website and called Mark Johnston, the point of contact for the event to see if he still had open spots for the Warriors Never Give Up pheasant hunt at Northstream Outfitters outside of Fort Pierre, SD.

Andy and I arrived at the motel and met up with the majority of the participants for refreshments and a bite to eat. Brett Bastian, Co-founder of WNGU, and Mark Johnston, WNGU board member, spoke about the faith based group and their passion about changing the lives of the nation's heroes through their outdoor adventures. While listening to the history of the group and where they want to take it, I knew we were in the right place.

The next morning we met the lodge owners and guides after brief introductions and handshakes. We were then treated to hot coffee and homemade caramel rolls that were mouthwatering. After a safety brief and a short drive out to the field, the warrior hero hunt for the elusive ring neck pheasant began. Not 20 yards into the walk, I was asking myself if I had enough shells for the day's event. All I could say was Wow! This is incredible! All wild birds! I have never ever seen a more professional Outfitter as the owners, guides, and volunteers at Northstream Outfitters.

Andy and I were glad to take part in such an amazing event. After the hunt, the group had lunch while Brett and Mark talked about the organization...and shared how their faith and God's inspirational idea has helped the pieces fall into place for this God inspired nonprofit. I was humbled to receive a Bible, gun sling, cross, etc. from the organization while reflecting on how great it was hunting with a special group of sponsors and heroes; who I can easily now call friends.

MFLC

Military & Family Life Counseling Program

Q. Who are Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC)?

A. MFLC(s) possess a master's or doctorate degree in a mental health field and are licensed or certified in a SD to practice independently.

Q. Who is eligible for support?

A. Members of the SDNG and their families. Eligible individuals may receive up to 12 non-medical and financial counseling sessions per person, per issue.

Q. What types of issues can MFLC(s) address?

A. Military and family life counselors assist service members and their families with circumstances occurring across the military lifecycle and are aimed at enhancing operational and family readiness. MFLCs provide support to individuals, couples, families, and groups, for a range of issues including but not limited to: deployment stress, reintegration, relocation adjustment, separation, anger management, conflict resolution, parenting, parent/child communication, relationship/family issues, coping skills, homesickness, and grief and loss.

Q. What issues are not appropriate for non-medical counseling?

A. Non-medical counseling is not intended to address active suicidal or homicidal thought or intent or other threats of harm to self or others, Family Advocacy Program cases, sexual assault, child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health conditions that have required recurring in-patient hospitalizations, someone prescribed psychoactive medication, someone currently receiving therapy by another practitioner, fitness for duty evaluations and court ordered counseling.

Q. When and where can I meet a MFLC?

A. MFLC(s) can meet at their work location identified in this flier or at a location you and the MFLC agree to. Their hours are flexible to meet during the work week, evenings and weekends. However, MFLC(s) are limited to a 50-mile travel radius.

Q. How do I schedule an appointment with a MFLC?

A. MANDI WOOLRIDGE, MA, LPC
Camp Rapid, 2823 West Main, Rapid City, SD 57702

NGCampRapidSDSurge@magmflc.org
(605) 390-4273

DEBRA JOHNSON, LPCMH
Mitchell Armory, 5501 Airport Rd, Mitchell, SD, 57301
NGMitchellSDSurge@magmflc.org
(605) 461-0055

Veterans online shopping benefit



Coming soon: the veterans online shopping benefit — online military exchange shopping privileges for those who served.

What is the veterans online shopping benefit?

Starting this Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2017, honorably discharged veterans will have access to tax-free online shopping privileges at military exchanges.

What can be purchased?

Eligible veterans can purchase nearly all products on the Exchange Services' online retail environment—with the exception of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products.

Who is eligible?

This lifetime online benefit will be available to all honorably discharged veterans of all Military Services of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Benefit begins Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The Department of Defense is proud to extend this benefit to veterans in recognition of their service. Online shopping will also help fund quality-of-life programs, supporting service members and their families.



Check out Military OneSource for future updates and information.
800-342-9647 • MilitaryOneSource.mil

**MILITARY
ONE SOURCE**



I WANT YOU

ENROLL IN VA HEALTH CARE

Did you deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn?

Then your service may have earned your access to VA health care benefits.
In order to take advantage of these benefits, you need to enroll in VA's health care system.
Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) today to get started!

Christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil or 605-737-6669

SDSU has designated their game on 11 November 2017 as the Military Appreciation Game for football.

Similar to previous years they are giving away two free tickets to each past or present service member with a valid form of military identification.

This could include but not limited to military ID, legion/VFW membership card, and dependent ID. They will also be displaying military pictures on their video board as they have in past years. If your unit or family support would like to supply a picture please upload the picture to the link listed below prior to 1 November.

Pictures can be uploaded to the SDSU dropbox account by clicking [here](#). SDSU will resize them as they come in so you don't need to have a specific size of image.

If you have any questions or run into issues uploading photos please contact

MAJ Rebecca Trygstad
605-696-5401

—SAVE THE DATE—
November 11, 2017

VS.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Kick-Off - 2:00 p.m. | Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium

South Dakota State Athletics would like to invite all Military Personnel out for "Military Appreciation Day" as the Jackrabbits football team hosts Illinois State.

All Military Personnel will receive (2) complimentary tickets to the game (Pick-up tickets at Gate C (First Bank & Trust Entrance) the day of game)

For More Information: call 1.605.688.5422

South Dakota Vietnam Veteran's & Era Reunion

February 23-25, 2018
Ramada Inn - \$79.00 per night
Mitchell, SD • 605-996-6501

Send to: SD Vietnam Veteran's & Era Reunion • PO Box 1026 • Mitchell, SD 57301

Friday	Registration	4:00PM
Feb. 23	Soup & Sandwich Supper	6-8:00PM
	Music by <i>Mega Sound</i>	8-11:00PM

Saturday	Registration	8:00AM
Feb. 24	Lunch at American Legion	12-1:30PM
	(Goodwill Donation)	
	Speaker at Ramada Inn	2-4:30PM
	(Agent Orange)	
	Happy Hour	5:30PM
	Banquet & Speaker	6-7:30PM
	Auction	8:00PM
	Dance to <i>Something New</i>	9-Close

Sunday	MEMORIAL SERVICE	10:00AM
Feb. 25		

Early Bird Drawing - register by Jan. 1st, 2018, you will be entered to win.

Name of Veteran _____	Friday \$35.00 each
Name of Guest _____	Saturday \$45.00 each
Branch of Service _____	Both Days \$75.00 each
Date of Service _____	

Contact number for more information: 605-996-2211 or 605-999-2321



Public Agent Orange Forum

November 4, 2017

Meade County Administration Building,
1300 Sherman St. Sturgis, SD
Commissioners Chambers (2nd Floor)
Two Sessions: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Moderator: Maynard Kaderlik
Vietnam Veterans of America Agent Orange Chairman

Sponsored by Sturgis Arts Council and VVA #1039

This is a very important event for those who were exposed and for family members.

POC: John Price at 605-490-2286 or
heartofabear.jdp@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

24-25 . MARCH . 2018

. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS .



THE SDNG STATE FAMILY & YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2018

. SIOUX FALLS SD .

. ONE HOTEL LOCATION . HOLLYWOOD THEME . BLACK & WHITE DRESS .

. PHENOMENAL SPEAKERS & TRAINERS . FAMILY FUN TOGETHER .

. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW .

Did you know?

The **Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) Program** serves Active and Reserve Component service members of **ALL** branches of the military **AND** Veterans who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation, often at great personal sacrifice. The program's principal role is to provide direction to Reserve Component service members so that they can secure all benefits, entitlements, and services earned through their military service with the compassion of someone who's been there.

You may not need assistance at this time, but you may have a friend or family member that could use some assistance.



Common services provided are:

- Requesting Military Service records
- Enrollment into the VA Healthcare
- Counseling on Education Benefits
- Supporting deploying and returning units
- Employment
- Tricare
- State specific benefits
- Navigating local, state and federal programs

I am a current service member in the SDARNG, an OEF-Afghanistan veteran, former full-time Soldier, education counselor and will put to use my skills and relationships to ensure your needs are met.

Contact your TAA today at
605-737-6669 or
christian.m.johnson.ctr@mail.mil

August Family Focus

Service Member and Family Support
South Dakota National Guard

2823 W. Main St, Rapid City SD 57702

1-800-658-3930



We also recommend that you like and follow us on [Facebook](#) as we continuously update new and exciting information.

Have suggestions of thing you would like to see in a future issue of the focus?
Please contact us!

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